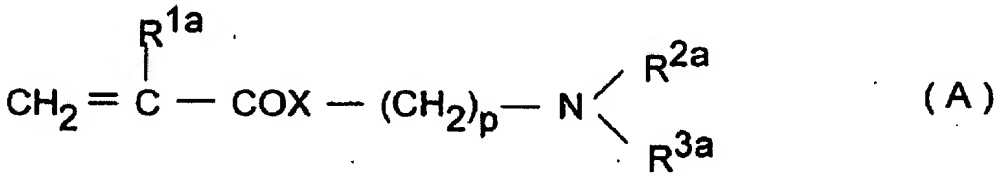
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A finely particulate composite ~~wherein~~ comprising a carbon compound of closed-shell structure which essentially consists of 30 to 2000 carbon atoms ~~is covered with polymer chain~~and a block copolymer, wherein said carbon compound is covered with polymer chains of the block copolymer and is encapsulated in a ~~structure~~ polymer micelle which is originated in ~~a~~ the block copolymer having a polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group and a poly(ethyleneglycol) chain segment, and which has the former segment as a core and the latter segment as a shell.

2. (Original) A finely particulate composite of claim 1 which has a solubility of 0.5 mg/ml or more in distilled water at 25°C.

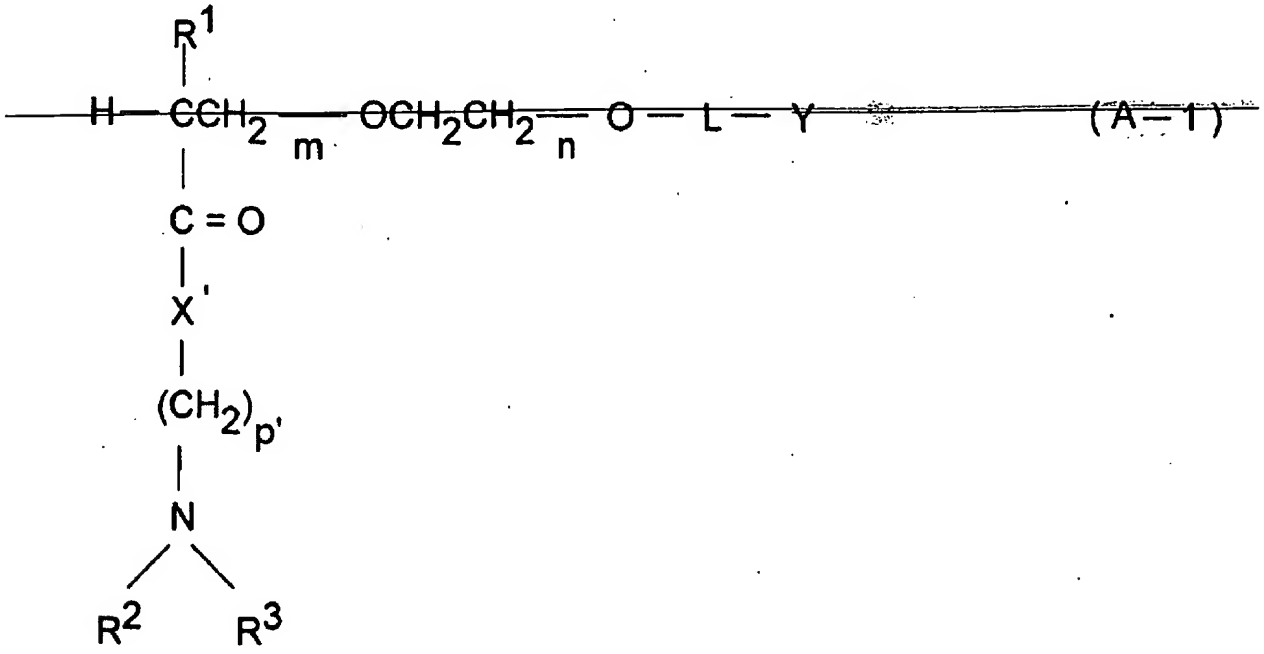
3. (Original) A finely particulate composite of claim 1 wherein the polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group is originated from a monomer of general formula (A) as follows:

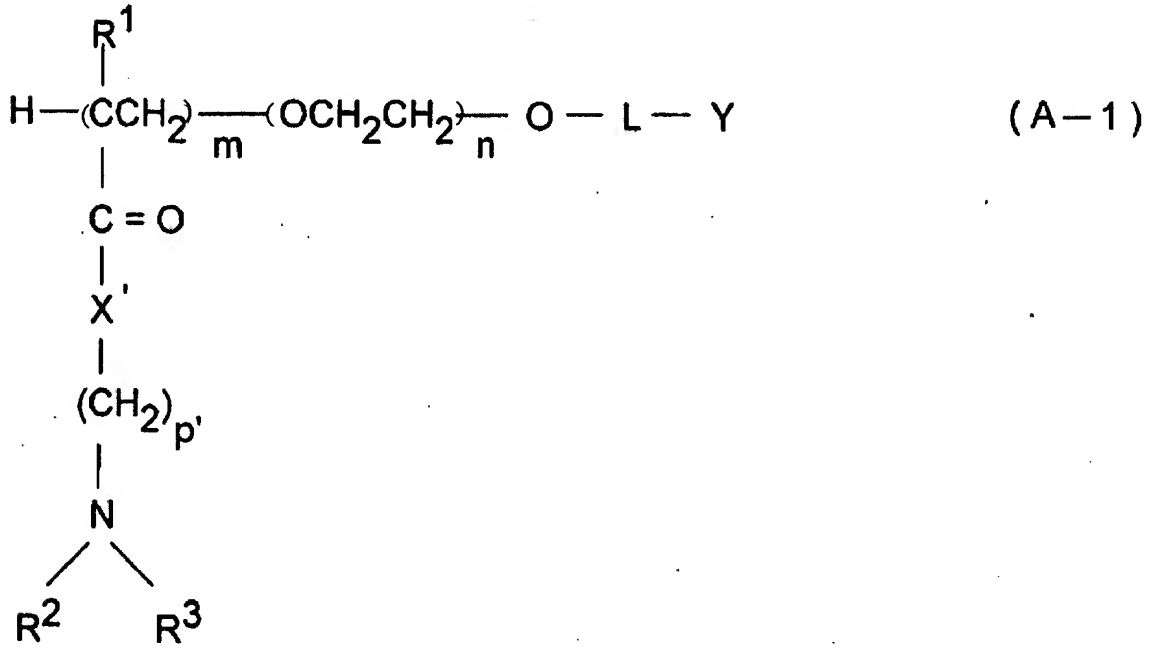


(A)

wherein R^{1a} denotes a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, R^{2a} and R^{3a} either, independently, denote a C_{1-6} alkyl group or, taken together, may form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, X denotes -O- or -NH-, and p denotes an integer of 2 to 6, said finely particulate composite having a solubility of 0.5 mg/ml or more in distilled water at 25°C.

4. (Currently Amended) A finely particulate composite of claim 1 wherein the block copolymer has general formula (A-1) as follows:





wherein R^1 denotes a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, R^2 and R^3 either, independently, denote a C_{1-6} alkyl group or, taken together, may form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

~~X'~~ X' denotes -O- or -NH-,

~~p' denotes an integer of 2 to 6,~~

L denotes a C_{1-6} alkylene or a valence bond,

Y denotes a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, an acetalized formyl group or a formyl (or aldehyde) group,

m denotes an integer of 1 to 10,000,

n denotes an integer of 10 to 20,000, and

~~p'~~ p' denotes an integer of 2 to 6.

5. (Previously Presented) A finely particulate composite of claim 1 wherein the carbon compound is C_{30}-C_{120} fullerene which consists of carbon atoms alone.

6. (Previously Presented) A process to produce a finely particulate composite of claim 1, wherein a carbon compound of closed-shell structure which essentially consists of 30 to 2000 carbon atoms and a block copolymer having a polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group and a poly(ethyleneglycol) chain segment are dissolved in a dipolar aprotic solvent and mixed, and that the resulting mixture is dialyzed against an aqueous solvent through a dialysis membrane whose molecular weight cut off is 12000 to 14000, to give a finely particulate composite wherein said carbon compound is encapsulated in a structure originated in the block copolymer.

7. (Previously Presented) An active oxygen scavenger which contains a finely particulate composite of claim 1 as an effective ingredient.

8. (Original) An active oxygen scavenger of claim 7 which is used in a field of foods, medical

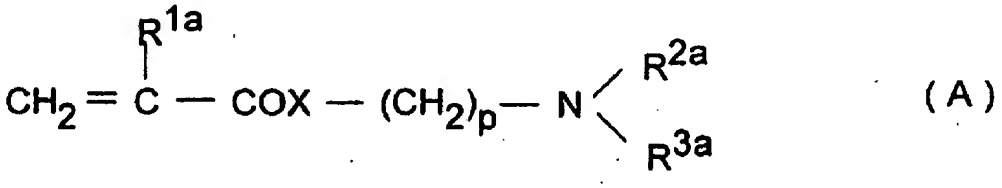
treatment, dermatology or cosmetics.

9. (Currently Amended) A finely particulate composite ~~wherein~~ comprising a carbon compound of closed-shell structure which essentially consists of 30 to 2000 carbon atoms ~~is covered with polymer chain~~and a block copolymer, wherein said carbon compound is covered with polymer chains of the block copolymer and is encapsulated in a ~~structure~~ polymer micelle which is originated in ~~a~~ the block copolymer having a polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group and a poly(ethyleneglycol) chain segment, and which has the former segment as a core and the latter segment as a shell, and ~~that~~ wherein an ultrafine particle of metal either in the form of metal element or in the form of its ion is encapsulated in the closed-shell structure of said carbon compound.

10. (Original) A finely particulate composite of claim 9 wherein the metal either in the form of metal element or in the form of its ion is paramagnetic metal.

11. (Original) A finely particulate composite of claim 10 wherein the paramagnetic metal is originated in an element selected from the group consisting of gadolinium, europium, terbium and erbium.

12. (Currently Amended) A finely particulate composite of claim 9 wherein the polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group is originated from a monomer of general formula (A) as follows:

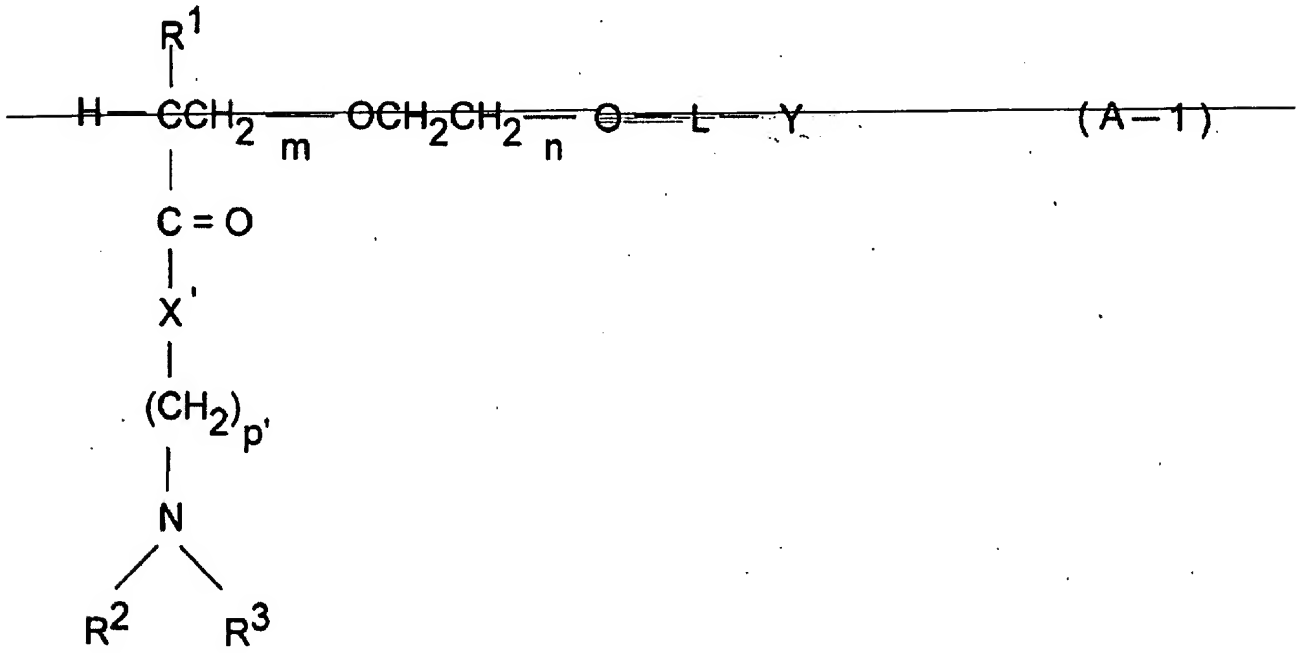


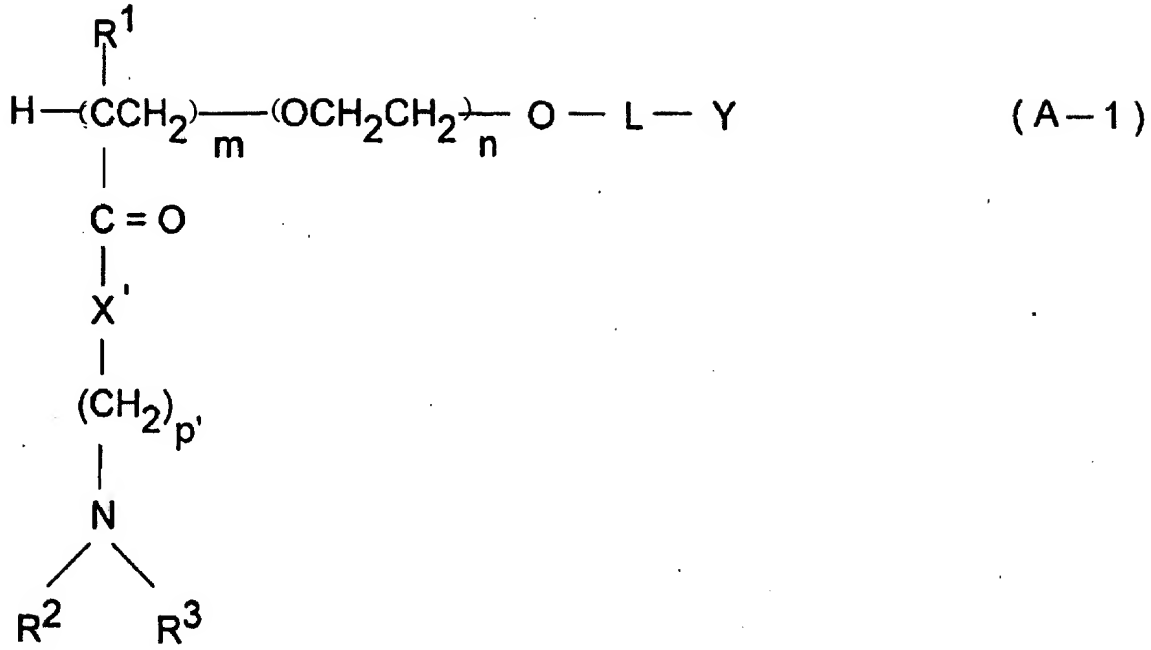
(A)

wherein R^{1a} denotes a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, R^{2a} and R^{3a} either, independently,

bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two ~~nitogen~~ nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, X denotes -O- or -NH-, and p denotes an integer of 2 to 6.

13. (Currently Amended) A finely particulate composite of claim 12 wherein the block copolymer has general formula (A-1) as follows:





(A-1)

wherein R^1 denotes a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, R^2 and R^3 either, independently, denote a C_{1-6} alkyl group or, taken together, may form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

~~X'~~ X' denotes -O- or -NH-,

~~p' denotes an integer of 2 to 6,~~

L denotes a C_{1-6} alkylene or a valence bond,

Y denotes a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, an acetalized formyl group or a formyl (or aldehyde) group,

m denotes an integer of 1 to 10,000,

n denotes an integer of 10 to 20,000, and

~~p'~~ p' denotes an integer of 2 to 6.

14. (Previously Presented) A contrast medium which comprises a finely particulate composite of claim 11 as an effective ingredient.

15. (Previously Presented) A contrast medium which comprises a finely particulate composite of claim 12 as an effective ingredient.